



# Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office  
[www.sheriffdunlap.org](http://www.sheriffdunlap.org)

***Daniel A. Dunlap***  
Sheriff

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **February 3, 2012**

On Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> the Lake County Sheriff's Office was reduced an additional five (5) Deputies on the Road Patrol. This brings the total number of Deputies cut from Road Patrol to 28 in the past three years.

The Lake County Sheriff's Office is developing new response plans to help to continue providing law enforcement services to the Townships with the reduced manpower levels. The County Commissioners have funded ten (10) Deputy Sheriffs to provide emergency law enforcement response to Concord, Painesville, Perry, and Leroy Township. The Sheriff's Office will continue to respond to emergency calls such as homicides, rape, robbery and felonious assaults as they occur. However, Deputy Sheriffs may not be able to physically respond to non-emergency calls such as vandalism, non-injury accidents, lock-outs, and thefts. Under the current manpower there may not be a Deputy available, and this will require citizens to come into the Sheriff's Office to fill out a report.

The current budget does not provide enough Deputies working on each shift to continue routine patrols in the townships, and only emergency response is possible unless a specific township funds extra patrols in their areas. Concord and Painesville Townships have provided additional funding for one (1) Deputy per shift, per day, in each of their townships so that they can continue routine patrols.

Under the current staffing levels it is impossible to provide police protection over the 88 square miles that encompass the four townships in the same manner that the Sheriff's office did three years ago, with triple the staffing levels. By creating a program that permits citizens to come into the Sheriff's Office to file a report for non-emergency calls, it will help the Sheriff's Office to continue to service the needs of the Townships as efficiently as possible.

The Sheriff is continuing discussions with all four affected townships to pay for their law enforcement services so as to increase the number of Deputies

on patrol. Such additional funding is needed in order to provide the full-service policing that their citizens have become accustomed to and expect.

It should be noted that Lake County is not the only county in Ohio facing such funding issues in the Townships for law enforcement protection. Many Sheriff's Offices are dealing with dramatic budget cuts that have adversely affected their levels of service. As an example, only a few weeks ago ten (10) Hamilton County townships were told that Sheriff's Office patrols would be totally eliminated by April 1, 2012.

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